

Dallas
January 24, 2005

Question: How successful are other jurisdictions in renting facilities during the hours that they are not scheduled for programs?

City of Greenbelt

Joe McNeal, Asst. Director, 301-397-2200

Community Center Gym

The City runs three gyms, one associated with the Community Center. They are more likely to schedule the Community Center gym for raising revenue while allocating hundreds of hours of free gym time to boys and girls club, and open gym, at the other facilities. The gym raised \$37,000 hours last year. Regular hours are 9-10, seven days per week. If a rental group wants to stay past 10 they can by paying extra rates.

Typical schedule

M-F:	
9-1.	City program classes
1-5.	'Down time'. Some school groups, some of which pay. Some open gym use. Maybe 2 to 4 hours rental per week it sounds like. One regular group is from Stoddard Space Lab for gym use two days per week.
6-10	Rented heavily. Groups get a time slot and keep it forever. Examples include jazzercise, basketball.
Sat/Sun:	
9-1	Rented heavily. Currently to Tai Chi on Sat, church groups on Sunday.
1-6	Saturdays over next three weeks unscheduled.
7-10	Saturdays rented heavily over next three weeks: examples are Israel folk dance group, other dance group, party. Sundays used also.

In general the City will make facility available for any group that wants to rent but they don't get much daytime, midweek interest. **But of the hours from 6-10 M-F, and all day Saturday and Sunday, Joe estimated they successfully rent the facility 1/2, possibly some times of year up to 3/4 of possible hours.**

Also note, if the gym is not used they will let anyone come up and, if they have a valid 'rec card', the person can enter the gym and use it at no expense. The 'rec card' is like a library card indicating good standing. But if a rental group comes along, they will rent the facility, so it may or may not be available for walk-ons. The other gyms have designated open gym time.

Also, Joe predicted heavy interest in indoor soccer or futsal. They do not rent their community center gym for soccer because of a wood stage they want to protect from the balls. (I told him about the advantage of futsal!)

Community Center Multi-purpose Rooms

During the day they are not used much. Used somewhat more in the evenings and weekends but not as much as gym. Last year they raised \$25,000 in revenue. Typical groups are weight watchers, showers, birthdays, church groups. In addition the City makes the facility available at no cost to “contribution or recognition” groups such as community service groups.

City of Gaithersburg

Linda Kobylski (scheduling), 301-258-6350

Two Gyms and Multipurpose Rooms considered together

On average through the year, and specifically in the spring and fall, the facilities are dedicated to city programs 60% and rentals 40%. In the winter rentals approach 80% of hours, in summer it is as low as 20%. During the days in summer the facilities are turned over to summer city camps.

The facilities are idle often weekdays 8-3. During this time period they are sometimes rented for trainings by schools and other groups. After 3 the facilities are heavily used.

The city runs volleyball and basketball programs. For rentals, main usage of the gym is soccer (indoor and futsal), baseball and basketball leagues.

I asked directly whether the 60% / 40% split accounted for time the facilities were idle. That is, if the facility is allocated to rental purposes 40% of the time, how much of that time does the facility sit idle. The answer was virtually never.

City of Rockville

Phil Bryan, 240-314-8602

Gyms and Multipurpose Rooms

Phil was very helpful but resisted the notion that we would want to rent the facilities instead of running city-sponsored programs. Rockville does not rent often on the evenings or weekends because there are so many city programs. The multi-purpose rooms are sometimes rented for birthday parties, showers, business meetings, trainings, etc. They have had inquiries about full-time day-time rental of the gym from a private school that they turned down. They run senior programs, senior basketball and table tennis.

The gym has business center membership that gives employees of the business access to fitness room facilities.

In general, Phil said they would have no trouble renting full-time on evenings and weekends, if they chose to.

His advice: “don’t skimp” on size of gym or mutli-purpose rooms. Also don’t forget storage.